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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious Savior, lead our lives so we will bring You pleasure, receiving the smile of Heaven's approval.

Guide our Senators, inspiring them to do justly, to love mercy, and to embrace humility as they walk with You. Lord, strengthen them, making them eager to lift burdens and to respond to human needs. In Your unfailing love, give them the wisdom to follow the leading of Your powerful providence. Do for them immeasurably, abundantly, above all that they can ask or imagine.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 18, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a

Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority controlling the second 30 minutes.

Following morning business the Senate will resume consideration of the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act.

We have tried really hard to work on this Energy bill. It is no wonder the news is reporting today that this is the least productive Senate in the history of the country.

We have a number of Republican Senators and lots of Republican House Members who don't believe in government. They want to get rid of it. They are doing everything they can to make that a fact. We are waiting now to see what is going to come from the House to fund government or not fund it. As the Presiding Officer knows, they are obsessed with the constitutional law that has been in effect now for 4 years, declared constitutional by the Supreme Court.

The latest we got from our floor staff is that the Republicans on this Energy bill want five nongermane amendments and whatever other amendments are filed dealing with energy, which means we are not going to finish the legislation. That is an understatement. But we will proceed. We have a number of

issues we are going to work on. We have one that we filed—what is called a rule XIV procedure—yesterday dealing with continuing to allow our high-tech industry to be competitive.

We will move forward doing the best we can. We will wait and see what the House is going to do. They are still struggling to find out which absurd idea is going to prevail over there.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1513, S. 1514, H.R. 2009, AND H.R. 2775

Mr. REID. I am told there are four bills at the desk due for second readings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by title for a second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1513) to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 1514) to save coal jobs, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 2009) to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from enforcing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

A bill (H.R. 2775) to condition the provision of premium and cost-sharing subsidies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act upon a certification that a program to verify household income and other qualifications for such subsidies is operational, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to all of these bills that were just read into the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bills will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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